

March 17th, 2011

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee, Professional members of the Coalition for a Useful Registry and other interested parties.

My name is Greg; In 2005 I plead no contest to one count of 4th Degree CSC. I successfully completed my 3 year probation in 2008 and the Sex offender Treatment program in 2006. I was also re-evaluated in 2010 and found not likely to re-offend. The reason that I wanted to take time to visit with you is to explain how the registry has impacted my life and to ask that you carefully understand the ramifications that the Registry can have not only on a Husband and Dad but also on the family members. I am asking that all Misdemeanor offenses be removed from the Public Registry AND that all expunged cases be removed from all registries. I also believe that the reporting requirements contained in SB189 are far too reaching – for example registering Boats, Aircraft that are owned or operated by an RSO and requiring all email addresses and instant message addresses is unreasonable for those convicted of misdemeanor level offenses. In my particular situation, my job as a marketing director requires that I have numerous email addresses and create new ones as marketing campaigns are launched.

First of all, I want to say that there is not a day that goes by that I do not think of the awful harm I caused, my wife, my daughter, my extended family, my friends, neighbors, and co-workers. I am very ashamed of my actions and am truly sorry for the pain and embarrassment I have caused.

The first impact of this registry caused me to loose a senior position with General Motors in 2007. I was first approached by my supervisor who informed me that he was notified by another GM Employee that lived in my neighborhood that I was a RSO. Approximately 3 months later I was told I was to separate from the company. Moments later, I was escorted out of the building. It was truly one of the most terrible days of my life. Not sure if any of you have ever gone through the process of loosing a great job that you love but let me assure you – It's not something I wish on anyone.

Fortunately, I was able to obtain another job – at a very small company with substantially less compensation and no benefits. But I am thankful I have a job. Approximately six months ago, I was approached by the owner of the company who said he needed to have a private discussion. As it turns out, one of our clients notified him of a factious facebook profile that someone posted on the web. The way the client found out is that my profile included my company name and included non-flattering remarks about me. My employer is nervous about other potential clients wanting to discontinue business with our company because of the negative stereotypes associated with RSOs. I noticed several changes with the interaction with my co-workers, no longer am I invited to social events or get any those sometime humorous emails. I just hope and pray that I my registration does not cause any more negative impacts on my employment. I need to provide for my family.

Regarding my family, FORTUNALTEY, I have been able to salvage my marriage. My wife of 21 years decided to stick with me. Even though she has her own career and could be on her own she chose to keep the family together – for this I am truly grateful.

However, there is constantly great pain within me whenever we walk our dogs or do to Target because of neighbors who will see her and think that she must be nuts for being associated with a man like me – AND on the surface I don't blame them BUT, its very frustrating that the general public paints all RSOs with a broad brush. I certainly was guilty of a misdemeanor sex offense and am not trying to minimize my crime BUT I am not a pedophile lurking around bus stops and school buildings.

My natural daughter has also felt the affects of this. Although she has never specifically said anything to me about it – I think it would be obvious to anyone that the kid of a RSO is going to have some negative experience – I often consider a time in the future when she finds her husband, has kids and gets disappointed when Grandpa is not able to attend the school functions.

Our neighbors do not invite us to graduation or birthday parties. My ex co-workers do not return calls or emails. I have made a few new friends but unfortunately I always am thinking about the day when they too find out – and another friendship is destroyed – so consequently I often find myself distancing myself so I don't hurt their feelings too much by letting them down – not sure if this makes sense but the long and short of it is that I really have 2 people in my life – my wife and my daughter. To me, I am very very thankful for them. Every time my daughter calls me I'm always a push over (like many proud parents). I love it every time she comes home from college and I want so much to understand how she is feeling and want to make sure she feels safe and secure even though I know I'm on shaky ground from the standpoint of providing for her.

In summary, my hope is that this committee will allow for ALL misdemeanor offenses to be off the public registry and that expunged cases be removed from All registries. As I understand the current proposed legislation the only change for me is that I would register twice a year vs. 4 times. I realize there is a need to comply with the Adam Walsh Act but I am also asking that you consider more emphasis on developing legislation that makes sense for the residents of Michigan and not take the easy road and do whatever is needed to get a mere million dollars. I think there is certainly a need for the public to know about Sexual Predators but as many of you know, and the majority of RSOs never offend again. Finally, I just would like my family to have a normal life and right now since they are associated with a person with a misdemeanor sex crime – they cannot.

I want to thank you for your time and especially in your interest in listening to my story.

Sincerely,
Greg